**THE PHILOSOPHY, BELIEFS & ETHICS (PBE) FACULTY**

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

**1. Staffing:**

Humanities consists of History, Geography, and R.E, re-named as Philosophy, Beliefs and Ethics. The Head of PBE is also the Head of Psychology and Health, although this role will be divided amongst several heads of department in her absence. Humanities teachers work together to deliver their own discrete subjects although some teaching is cross-faculty.

**2. Accommodation:**

The subjects are housed in one main area of the new school building. All classrooms have interactive whiteboards. There is also a Humanities hub where staff can work outside of their classrooms.

**3. Curriculum and Organisation**.

**a) Key Stage 3:**

Students receive one hour of PBE teaching a week. All students take the full GCSE course. Students begin their GCSE in Religious Studies in Year 9 to give them sufficient time to cover all the content. Students study the AQA Religious Studies A course.

Students are taught in mixed ability groups in all year groups apart from Year 11. The breadth of ability is considerable, ranging from the most able to a fairly large number of students with Special Educational Needs.

Topics studied at Key Stage 3 include:

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| **Year 7** | Why do we study PBE? Including the study of medical ethics Judaism, including the study of Israel and PalestineBuddhism, including the study of Tibet and meditationPhilosophy and ethics, including the study of immigrationSikhism, including the ethics of war and charity workReligions of Africa, including Voodoo and Bantu |

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| **Year 8** | Islam, including the study of Islamophobia and the 5 PillarsChristianity, including the study of famous preachers and the IncarnationBig Ideas, including the study of colonialism and feminismWhat makes us human? Including the study of the mind-body and personal identity problems in PhilosophyA World Without God, including the study of MarxismHinduism, including the ethics of eating meat |

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| **Year 9** | Crime and Punishment, including the study of capital and corporal punishment, hate crimes and religious attitudes to forgivenessRelationships, including the study of gender and LGBT equality, and religious attitudes to marriage and divorce |

**b) Key Stage 4:**

Students continue their study of the full-course AQA Religious Studies A GCSE in KS4. Students prepare for two papers: the first paper focuses on Islam and Christianity, whilst the second focuses on themes (relationships and families, crime and punishment, peace and conflict, and life and death). Topics from Paper 1 are taught alongside the themes and then revised in Year 11. Students are currently achieving above national averages (73% Grade 5+, 43% Grades 7-9 and 14% Grade 9).

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| **Year 10** | Religion and life, including the study of life after death, abortion and euthanasiaPeace and Conflict, including the study of causes of conflict and Just War theory |

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| **Year 11** | Christianity, including the study of the Resurrection and the TrinityIslam, including the study of the 5 Pillars |

**c) 16-19**

Students can opt to take OCR Religious Studies at A-Level where they study three units: Philosophy, Ethics, and Developments in Christian Thought. All students take the AS exam at the end of Year 1 and many continue to take the A2 exam at the end of Year 2. Last year, 44% of students achieved Grade A\*-B at AS and 40% achieved Grade A\*-B at A2 with 100% passing the exam.